

REMARKS

Claims 48, 50-56, 58-60, 62-73, 75-83, 86-91, 93-98, and 105-115 are now pending in the application. By this paper, Claims 48, 58-59, 62, 66-72, 83, and 91 have been amended, Claims 105-115 have been added, and Claims 49, 57, 61, 74, 84-85, 92, and 99-104 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The basis for these amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, claims, and drawings originally filed. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendments and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Applicants have amended Claim 71 to correct a typographical error. Specifically, Applicants have replaced the term "crating" with the term "creating." Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 71 is in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 74, 100, and 102 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot as Claims 74, 100, and 102 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 48, 50-60, 66-73, 75-77, 79-84, 86-91, 93-99, 101, 103, and 104 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Connell (U.S. Pat. No. 6,330,893 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot with respect to Claims 57, 84, 99, 101, and 103-104 as Claims 57, 84, 99, 101, and 103-104 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 48, 72, 83, and 91 have been placed in condition for allowance through amendments consistent with the Examiner's notice of allowable subject matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Applicants have amended independent Claim 72 to include the subject matter of Claim 74. While the Examiner did not indicate that Claim 74 contains allowable subject matter, Applicants note that the Examiner did not make a substantive rejection of Claim 74 and, further, that Claim 74 defines over the prior art for the same reasons as allowable Claim 49. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent Claim 72, as well as Claims 73, 75-77, and 79-82, dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 49, 61-65, 78, 85, and 92 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent Claims 48, 72, 83, and 91 to include allowable subject matter and respectfully submit that independent Claims 48, 83, and 91, as well as Claims 50-56, 86-90, and 93-98, respectively dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS

Independent Claim 105 contains the allowable subject matter of now-cancelled Claim 62 while independent Claim 106 contains the allowable subject matter of now-cancelled Claim 78. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 105 and 106, as well as Claims 58-60, 62-71, and 107-115, respectively dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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